

## New Skills for Youth

## LOUISIANA

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Louisiana was one of 10 states selected to participate in New Skills for Youth (NSFY), an initiative enhancing state efforts to increase the number of learners across the country who are prepared for success in both college and career. Between 2016 and 2019, Louisiana strengthened its career readiness system through NSFY by:

### Continuously improving the Jump Start program

Through NSFY, Louisiana improved Jump Start, which aligns K-12 Career Technical Education (CTE) with the state's economic development strategies. Jump Start features 45 high-quality career pathways that require students to earn industry-based credentials. While Jump Start began in 2014, Louisiana leveraged NSFY to create new career pathways that are relevant to university-bound students, such as a pre-engineering certification career pathway; expand the number of work-based learning opportunities available to rural communities; and leverage private-sector intermediaries to accelerate the delivery of Jump Start initiatives.

### Developing and implementing the CTE Leadership Academy

Recognizing that high-quality CTE opportunities in the state also require effective CTE leaders, Louisiana launched the CTE Leadership Academy. The CTE Leadership Academy is a 13-month program that blends online and in-person training that enables CTE leaders to master the leadership, analytical and communication skills necessary to lead Jump Start career pathways and programs in their communities. More than 40 percent of participants in the first cohort reported an increase in student enrollment in Jump Start courses at their schools. Thirty-six percent of the Leadership Academy's completers have earned promotions and/or awards for excellence.

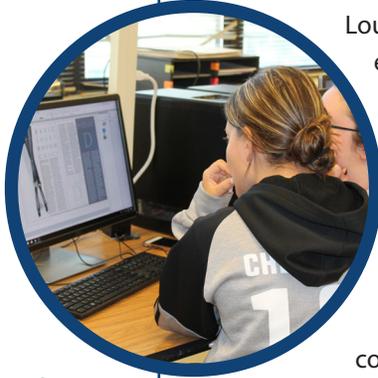


“ The Jump Start Summer bootcamp program was a really great opportunity. **By just taking a chance and having a great attitude about it I accomplished a big goal for myself.** Even though we had to give up five weeks of our summer, it just showed how dedicated we were, and the outcome of it was amazing. The [Certified Clinical Medical Assistant] CCMA exam is a bit challenging but isn't hard as it seems. If you believe in yourself, study and know your material, you'll be fine. This program taught me to never doubt myself and re-emphasized that **I can accomplish anything I set my mind to.** ”

— Aniya Spencer, Student,  
New Orleans Career Center

“ I really enjoyed the Jump Start Summer program. It provided an in-depth knowledge of the forestry industry and all that is has to offer. This program really built on the foundation of my prior knowledge of forestry. Previously, I only knew how to identify different species of trees, read maps and measure trees. **This program reached further — teaching me the business of the industry, the science behind wildfires, different types of wood products and more.** I’m so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in the program. ”

— Student, Winn Parish School District



## Implementing a micro-industry engagement strategy

Louisiana implemented a technology-based strategy to increase equity and access to work-based learning, especially for students in remote areas. This micro-industry engagement strategy uses web-based technologies and curated hands-on learning resources that enable students to engage with workplace experts in industry sectors they want to explore, regardless of where they live or go to school. These exercises introduce students to the broad universe of career opportunities, while helping them build essential workplace communication skills.

## Expanding access to work-based learning

Through Jump Start Summers and the Building Employment Skills for Tomorrow (BEST) program, Louisiana greatly expanded onsite work-based learning opportunities for high school students. NSFY funding helped Louisiana launch Jump Start Summers, a unique program in which students engage in work-based learning, earn academic credits, attain industry-based credentials and earn wages over the summer. To date, 3,571 learners have participated in Jump Start Summers. To expand access to work-based learning for students with disabilities, Louisiana piloted the BEST program in partnership with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services in Bossier Parish. Learners in the program are connected virtually to industry mentors — mainly adults with disabilities who are successful in the workplace — and engage in work-based learning or school-based enterprises. New staff members also work directly with students to pursue their unique path to work and adult success. To pay for the program, Louisiana leveraged funds it received through NSFY and Pre-employment Transition Services funds, which are made available through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and match state funds at a rate of up to 3.8 to 1.

## MAJOR STATE POLICY WINS

### Louisiana Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan (2017) [↗](#)

The Louisiana ESSA plan includes measures of dual enrollment, industry certification and access to career pathways. The Graduation Index measures the quality of the diploma earned by each 12th grader. Under Louisiana’s ESSA plan, points are awarded for students who graduate on time and meet requirements for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Jump Start credentials, dual enrollment course completion or an associate degree.

# Louisiana NSFY Impact *by the Numbers*

60%

Percentage of CTE Leadership Academy participants from the first cohort who reported that they had taken on new responsibilities in the first six months of CTE Leadership Academy training

36%

Percentage of CTE Leadership Academy completers who have earned awards and/or awards of excellence

3,571

Number of learners who have participated in Jump Start Summers

4,221

Number of industry-based credentials Jump Start Summer students have earned cumulatively



“ Before I got to do this welding program at Jump Start Summer last summer, I hated school. I didn’t want to be there. **But now, I see that once I finish high school, I can go to work sooner.** So I can do this! I’m a better kid at school now too! ”

— Student, Winn Parish School District





# Sustainability Strategy



Louisiana established a network of third-party intermediaries outside of the state government to lead critical components of the work accomplished under NSFY. Many of these intermediaries are establishing self-sustaining funding to support the efforts made under NSFY after the initiative ends. Moving forward, Louisiana will focus on implementing its Jump Start 2.0 strategy, which will draw on lessons learned from the early years of Jump Start to iterate and improve the program's design.

## Louisiana NSFY Local Impact: Ascension Public Schools

Ascension Public Schools (APS) features 26 Jump Start career pathways that collectively offer 58 industry-based credentials. APS is one of five pilot sites participating in an NSFY initiative to strengthen the image of CTE across the state. During the initiative, district administrators will partner with Edge Factor, a marketing firm that specializes in CTE, to develop videos that promote and showcase career pathways to community members and parents. The videos will highlight local businesses that partnered with schools and learners now employed at those businesses to illustrate the impact of career pathways.



## ABOUT NSFY

NSFY is a \$75 million national initiative developed by JPMorgan Chase & Co. As part of this initiative, the Council of Chief State School Officers, Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group worked with states to improve their career readiness systems. NSFY consisted of two phases. During Phase One (March-October 2016), states conducted a comprehensive needs assessment and developed action plans to examine and transform their career readiness systems and expand the opportunities available to learners. During Phase Two (January 2017-December 2019), states executed their three-year plans to transform their career readiness systems.